

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: June 22, 2004
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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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*** Public Notice ***

Workers at Kosciusko County's Dekko Technologies, Inc. receive federal assistance

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Kosciusko County's Dekko Technologies, Inc., also known as Dekko Heating Technologies, Inc., are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced or adversely impacted due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Dekko Technologies, Inc. has seen its plant sales, production and employment decline over the last several of years due to increased importation of air fresheners by its major customer.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A petition was filed on May 18, 2004, on behalf of the employees displaced at Dekko Technologies, Inc.

The USDOL investigation found that an increase in the importation of plug-in air fresheners contributed to the displacement of workers at Dekko Technologies, Inc., Air Fresheners Division. Consequently, workers at Dekko Technologies, Inc. qualified for TAA benefits, and the findings were certified on June 9, 2004. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 17, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at Dekko Technologies, Inc. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA, and ATAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Sandra Moehing at Elkhart WorkOne at 574/ 295-0105, ext. 225 or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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